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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 205380
ORIGIN SMI-01

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DRAFTED BY:SMI:OIA:RTCONROY
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SMI:OIA:KBSCHAPMAN
SMI:OIA:KBSCHMERTZ
SMI:NMNH:DWASSHAUSEN
ARA:AND:P:ANDYPURNELL
ARA:AND:B:DAVID TTOYRYLA
ARA/AND/P:ASCFULLER(INFO)
----------096027 150850Z /10
R 142111Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

UNCLAS STATE 205380

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:TBIO, PE, BL

SUBJECT:SMITHSONIAN - ANDEAN BOTANICAL RESEARCH

1. DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY OF SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY HAS BEEN CONDUCTING SOME BOTANICAL RESEARCH IN PERU AND BOLIVIA FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, AND IS NOW PROJECTING COMPREHENSIVE BOTANICAL RESEARCH PROGRAM UNDER DIRECTION DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN DR. DIETER WASSHAUSEN, AND INVOLVING A NUMBER OF FIELD RESEARCHERS. THIS RESEARCH MAY EXTEND AS MUCH AS THIRTY YEARS TO COMPLETION, AND WILL INCLUDE A COMPLETE FLORA OF BOLIVIA AND STUDIES OF SELECTED FAMILIES OF PLANTS IN PERU.

2) RESEARCHERS EXPECT SPEND 4 MONTHS IN PERU AND 3 MONTHS
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IN BOLIVIA NEXT YEAR WITH SUBSEQUENT YEARS TIME IN FIELD DEPENDING UPON LEVEL OF FUNDING AVAILABLE.

3) RESEARCHERS' EXPERIENCE IN AREA IS THAT VEHICLE RENTAL IS MAJOR PORTION OF FIELD WORK EXPENSE AMOUNTING TO ABOUT US DOLS 1,500 PER MONTH. IN VIEW OF LONG TERM OF PROJECTS, SMITHSONIAN LOOKING FOR WAY TO PURCHASE SUITABLE

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VEHICLE, PROBABLY WITH FEDERAL FUNDS, TO BE BASED IN PERU

BUT IF POSSIBLE USED IN BOTH BOLIVIA AND PERU. SMITHSONIAN BELIEVES SUCH PURCHASE WOULD ONLY BE AN ECONOMY IF IT COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED DUTY FREE. SMITHSONIAN HAS IN MIND 4 WHEEL DRIVE LANDROVER (BRITISH MADE ONLY) OR TOYOTA LANDCRUISER WITH FULLY CLOSED BODY, AND LOCAL PURCHASE IF POSSIBLE. SMITHSONIAN UNDERSTANDS THESE MAKES MOST SUITABLE FOR LOCAL MAINTENANCE.

4) EMBASSY LIMA REQUESTED ADVISE WHETHER THERE IS A WAY IN WHICH SUCH DUTY FREE PURCHASE COULD BE MADE FOR U. S. GOVERNMENT OWNED VEHICLE, AND APPROXIMATE PRICE RANGE THAN MIGHT PERTAIN. SMITHSONIAN NEEDS TO OBLIGATE FUNDS WITHIN CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FOR VEHICLE PURCHASE. THEREFORE, MUST ACT SOON FOR EITHER DIRECT PURCHASE OF VEHICLE OR TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO EMBASSY IF EMBASSY PROCUREMENT ADVISABLE.

5) EMBASSY LA PAZ REQUESTED ADVISE REGARDING ANY PROBLEMS SMITHSONIAN MIGHT HAVE OPERATING PERU BASED VEHICLE IN BOLIVIA. CHRISTOPHER

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To: LIMA LA PAZ
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